BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca *Issue: 12-05* *February 3, 2012*

- **Unemployment rate inches down to 6.9% in January**
- **Sales at food services & drinking places up 1.4% in November**
- **Canadian economy shrinks 0.1% in November**

Labour Force Survey

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate inched down in January, dropping to 6.9% (*seasonally adjusted*).** The marginal improvement in the jobless rate occurred because the labour force shrank (-3,400, or -0.1%) more than enough to offset the effect of a slight drop (-2,200, or -0.1%) in the number of people employed.

  British Columbia was one of only three provinces to see a reduction in the unemployment rate in January. In Quebec (-0.3 percentage points, to 8.4%) and Saskatchewan (-0.2 percentage points, to 5.0%), the decline in the unemployment rate was largely due to job growth.

  Canada's unemployment rate rose 0.1 percentage point to 7.6%, as employment growth stalled while the labour force increased 0.1%.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **BC's goods and service sectors moved in opposite directions in January.** The goods industries continued to show strong job growth, with employment expanding (+1.1%, *seasonally adjusted*) for a third straight month as the manufacturing sector (+5.9%) remained in an upswing. However, there were fewer jobs available in construction (-1.6%) and forestry, fishing and mining (-6.0%).

  Service sector employment shrank (-0.4%) for the second time in the last three months, as several key employers reduced the size of their workforce. Professional, scientific & technical services (-13.2%), accommodation & food services (-5.0%) and retail & wholesale trade (-2.2%) all contributed to the decline, as did some employers in the public sector. At the same time, there were significant increases in management & administration (+16.4%), finance, insurance & real estate (+6.0%) and transportation & warehousing (+4.5%). The unusually large swings in the service sector industries could be related to sampling issues, and do not necessarily indicate an emerging trend.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The number of people with full-time jobs fell 0.4% in January (seasonally adjusted), but there were 1.0% more part-time workers.** The jobless rate for those aged 15 to 24 fell back to 13.5%, but remained more than twice as high as the rate for more experienced workers (5.8%). Men (7.6%) were more likely to be unemployed than women (6.2%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Among the regions, jobless rates ranged from an estimated 2.5% (3-month moving average, unadjusted) in Northeast to 11.6% in North Coast/Nechako, where the unemployment rate climbed into the double-digits for the first time since September 2010.** In the rest of the province, the unemployment rate was between 6.2% and 7.7%. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **Sales at B.C. food and drinking places expanded 1.4% (*seasonally adjusted*) in November.** Nationwide, sales at these establishments increased 0.6% in November,

Report

How well do you know BC?
Census Counts are coming

Did you know...

65% of Canadian consumers rated the national economy as 'good' in January, while only 21% of Americans would say the same about their own economy.

Source: Ipsos Reid

with decreases registered in Newfoundland and Labrador (-3.5%) and Manitoba (-0.3%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Electric Power

- **British Columbia utilities and industries generated 6.2 million megawatt-hours of power in November, 9.2% more than in the same month of 2010.** About 93% of B.C.'s power was generated by hydraulic turbines, followed by conventional steam turbines (6%) which are powered by burning fossil fuels or other combustible materials. Nationwide, 63% of Canada's power came from hydro, followed by conventional steam (17%) and nuclear (13%). Wind turbines generated 2% of the power produced by Canadian utilities and industries in November. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Adult Correctional Services

- **British Columbia's incarceration rate rose only slightly (+0.8%) in 2010, with an average of 77 provincial incarcerations per 100,000 people.** This was lower than the average for all provinces and territories (90 people per 100,000) and down from a recent high in 2008 (80/100,000).

  Manitoba continued to be the province with the highest incarceration rate, at 212 people 100,000 persons. The territories tend to have much higher incarceration rates, likely due to lower populations and social conditions in those areas. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Provincial correctional facilities held an average of 2,818 persons in 2010, a 2.8% increase from 2009.** Of this total, 52% were held on remand (ordered to custody while waiting a court appearance) while 42% had been sentenced. The remaining 6% were classified as "other statuses", which includes things such as immigration holds. In the year 2000, 33% of persons in provincial facilities were held on remand, while 59% had been sentenced. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **An average of 14,465 persons were under community supervision in B.C. in 2010, slightly fewer (-0.7%) than in 2009.** These were mostly (85%) probationary sentences which are served entirely in the community with varying restrictions on activities. An average of 335 persons per 100,000 population were on probation in British Columbia in 2010. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Nation

- **The Canadian economy lost ground in November, with GDP shrinking 0.1% (*seasonally adjusted*) after stalling in the previous month.**

  Goods-producing industries remained on a downward path (-0.6%), as oil & gas extraction (-2.5%) and construction (-0.3%) activities slowed. However, manufacturing picked up steam, expanding 0.6%.

  The service sector continued to inch ahead, growing at a rate of 0.1% for a fourth straight month. Wholesale trade (-0.6%) retreated, but retailers (+0.6%) increased their output in November. Most other service sector industries posted modest gains. The accommodation & food services industry advanced 0.9%, more than offsetting a 0.3% decline in the previous month. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Canadian manufacturing prices were 2.8% higher in December than in the same month of 2010.** The increase was largely due to higher prices for petroleum and coal products (+12.8%).

  B.C. softwood lumber prices (-0.8%) remained lower in December than in the same month of 2010. Even so, December's prices were part of a continuing improvement for softwood lumber producers from prices in May, which were down 10.5%. Interior softwood lumber prices (-1.8%) continue to slump the most, as coastal softwood lumber recovered from lows earlier in the year to sit 1.8% higher than last year. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline Report

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How well do you know BC? 2011 Census Counts are coming!

2011 Census Counts to be released next week

On February 8th, the first results from the 2011 Canadian Census will be released. Population and dwelling counts will be available for British Columbia, its numerous communities, as well as for Canada and the rest of the nation.

This release will be the first in 2012 that will shed light on how BC communities have grown and changed since the last census was taken in 2006.

New and historic changes in the 2011 Census

For 60% of Canadian households a census letter replaced the traditional paper questionnaire to encourage respondents to complete the census online. This was a first in census history. It's worth noting that BC had the highest internet response rate among the provinces and territories.

The questions normally asked on the census long form were asked in the National Household Survey (NHS). This survey was voluntary and went to one in three Canadian households. The census long form used to be mandatory and went to one in five households.

First of four census releases in 2012

The information collected in the 2011 census will be released over the next nine months:

February 8, 2012: Population and dwellings

May 29, 2012: Age and sex

September 19, 2012: Families, households and marital status; structural type of dwelling and collectives

October 24, 2012: Language

A release schedule for the NHS results has not yet been announced by Statistics Canada. However, BC Stats expects the first data from this survey to be available in early 2013.

Focus on BC

On February 8th, a BC Stats analysis of population change between 2006 and 2011 for BC municipalities and census subdivisions will be published. The focus will be on where the growth occurred and didn't occur within the province.

On February 10th, a second analysis comparing population change between provinces and territories and how it differs (or resembles) the Statistics Canada 2011 population estimates for the provinces and territories will be released.

In addition to the above, BC Stats will make available the 2011 population and dwelling counts for all BC communities down to the census sub-division (CSD) level on its website: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

By the way, not everyone is counted in the census!

It should be noted that not everyone is counted in the census and some are counted more than once. Statistics Canada undertakes a series of 'coverage studies' to assess the net impact of missing or overcounting people and

households. The difference between the number of people missed and those counted too often is commonly referred to as the net census undercount. In 2006 the estimated net census undercount for BC was 121,551 or 2.87% of the B.C. population; this compares to 2.67% for Canada. While the coverage studies effort is well under way, we won't know the net undercount for the 2011 Census until the Fall of 2013.

For more information on the 2011 Census please visit the BC Stats website at Census of Canada or the Statistics Canada 2011 Census website.

Statistics Canada's Workshop Series

Visit www.statcan.gc.ca for future workshops!

Understanding and Interpreting Data

This is a practical statistical course that covers the basic aspects of survey data analysis. This course will appeal to novice analysts and those who are required to interpret statistical findings. It provides an overview of basic types of research as well as analytical requirements. This is followed by a short treatment of survey sampling and types of data.

Some of the analytical techniques that will be covered include cross tabulations, chi-square and some aspects of linear regression. The workshop includes a hands on data analysis exercise and a discussion on the principles for presenting results.

VICTORIA

FEBRUARY 21 & 22, 2012
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Health Canada Boardroom
510 - 1230 Government St.
Victoria, BC

WORKSHOP TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Analytical requirements and sources of data
- Survey design and sampling methods
- Types of Data
- Confidence intervals
- Grouping and graphic data
- Analytical techniques
- Interpreting and presenting analytical results

Register Early as Space is Limited

Fee is $550 + HST

Early registration: $499 + HST

(Early bird registration at least 3 weeks prior)

REGISTRATION

Learn from the survey experts! SD

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

_____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

❒ Visa ❒ M/C ❒ Amex ❒ Cheque (Payable to Receiver General for Canada)

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To register, please return form to:
Workshop Registrar
Statistics Canada
600 - 300 West Georgia Street
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Toll Free Fax 877-287-4369 or 604-666-6680
West.info@statcan.gc.ca

*Please make Cheque and Money Orders payable to **'Receiver General for Canada'***

Cancellation Policy - Cancellations received in writing 7 business days prior to the start date of the workshop will receive a full refund. After that date no refunds will be made, but a one-time substitution will be permitted. Please advise the Workshop Coordinator 3 business days before the workshop for substitutions. However, if you do not cancel and do not attend, you will be charged the full registration fee and no substitutions will be made. Travel and accommodation expenses are the responsibility of the workshop participants.

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Canada

Statistics Canada's Workshop Series

Visit www.statcan.gc.ca for future workshops!

Understanding Demographic Data

Join us for a one day workshop on demographic data. This workshop will enhance your ability to understand and interpret demographic data, methods and techniques. This workshop is ideal for market researchers, policy analysts, business professionals, planners and other social scientists who use or commission demographic data.

As a result of your participation, you will be able to more effectively and accurately analyze demographic data. In addition, the workshops will increase your awareness of the availability of population data and current research techniques being used.

VICTORIA

FEBRUARY 23, 2012
THURSDAY
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Health Canada Boardroom
510 - 1230 Government St.
Victoria, BC

Register Early as Space is Limited

Fee is $300 + HST

Early registration: $275 + HST

(Early bird registration at least 3 weeks prior)

THE WORKSHOP WILL INCLUDE DISCUSSIONS ON:

- Population growth - births, deaths and migration
- Population pyramids - rates and ratios
- Population estimates
- Population projections

Learn from the survey experts! SD

REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

_____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

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To register, please return form to:
Workshop Registrar
Statistics Canada
600 - 300 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 3C7
Toll Free Tel 888-799-0050 or 604-666-6709
Toll Free Fax 877-287-4369 or 604-666-6680
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Canada

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Email transmission information service from BC Stats

also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca or choose RSS

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Oct 1/2011	% change on one year ago
BC	4,592.0	0.9
Canada	34,605.3	1.0
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 8)		% change on
(BC - at market prices)	2010	one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	203,147	5.9
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	167,140	3.0
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	36,899	1.4
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	26,166	2.2
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Nov 2011	3,206	0.9
Merchandise Exports - Nov 2011	2,895	7.2
Retail Sales - Nov 2011	5,103	0.3
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Dec 2011)	one year ago	% change
BC	1.7	2.3
Vancouver	1.9	2.3
Victoria	1.5	2.2
Canada	2.3	2.9
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Jan 2012	prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	-2.2	
Labour Force - BC	2,462.1	-0.1
Employed - BC	2,291.7	-0.1
Unemployed - BC	170.4	-0.7
		Dec 2011
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.9	7.0
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.6	7.5
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Feb 1/2012	Feb 2/2011
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.50	3.35
- 5 year	5.14	5.19
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Feb 1/2012	Feb 2/2011
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9971	0.9883
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9991	1.0119
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Jan 2012	one year ago
BC	851.91	2.8
Canada	855.15	2.4

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Sub-Provincial Population Estimates, 2011

2011 estimates of population for municipalities, regional districts and development regions are now available.

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/estspop.asp

Regional Labour Force Participation Rate Projections

Forecasts of labour force participation rates are a key component of projections of future levels of employment. This report gives detailed projections of labour force participation by Development Region, by age and sex out to 2036.

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/RegionalLFPR2011.pdf

Open Data

Statistics Canada is implementing a new dissemination model. On February 1, 2012, the CANSIM database will be free to access and standard Census products will be free. In addition, Statistics Canada will no longer charge fees for the right to redistribute its information. Organizations will be encouraged to redistribute information under terms and conditions similar to the Government of Canada Open Data Licence Agreement for Unrestricted Use of Canada's Data. The objective of the new dissemination model is to provide users with maximum benefit from statistical information about Canada's economy and society.

Released this week by BC Stats

- Labour Force Statistics, January 2012
- Earnings & Employment Trends, January 2012

Next week

- Exports, December 2011

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